The above mentioned basic rates of advertisement boards are applicable at stations classified as 'B' class stations for this specific purpose. However, Zonal Railways are authorised to categorise stations as 'A' class stations and Special class stations. The charges for advertisement boards for 'A' class stations are fixed minimum 20 per cent higher than 'B' class stations. The charges for special class stations are still higher than 'A' class stations and are determined by the Zonal Railways, depending upon the importance of the stations, publicity value of specific site, potential revenue and traffic dealt with at the stations. The sizes of the advertisement boards vary from site to site and from station to station. Sizes are accepted in confirmity with the availability of sites.

Provision of facilities for passengers at the Minto Bridge and Tilak Bridge Stations

2318. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger traffic at Minto Bridge and Tilak Bridge Stations has increased;

(b) whether platform sheds, drinking water, electricity, entrance/exist gates, goods/parcel booking counters, catering/vending/book stall, cycle/scooter stands etc. have not been provided so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that to avoid congestion at New Delhi station, tonga and taxi stands and stoppage of express trains at those stations have not provided so far; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide such facilities at both the stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Platform sheds, drinking water, electricity, entrance and exit gates from foot-over-bridge and tea stalls have been provided at these stations. One book stall is available at Shivaji Station (Minto Bridge) and one is proposed to be opened at Tilak Bridge Station. These stations deal with suburban traffic. The provision of other facilities is not considered necessary. Stoppages of some express trains are also provided at these stations.

Additional Platforms for passengers at Delhi Junction and Ghaziabad Stations

2319. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for provision of additional passenger platforms at Delhi Junction and Ghaziabad stations for avoiding congestion;

(b) whether Government have dropped the scheme for opening of the second entry towards Kashmere Gate side at Delhi Junction; and

(c) if not, what time has been fixed for starting of work and its completion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Provision of additional platform at Ghaziabad is part of an approved work. No additional platforms are proposed at Delhi Main.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Connecting three islands in the Ernakulam Backwaters

2320. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken to implement the project for connecting the three densely populated islands in the Ernakulam Backwaters with the main land in Kerala; and

(b) to what extent the Central Government are likely to finance this multicrore project on the basis of the project-